

Casino developers see jackpot in Portland

(AP) - After going bust in their first three attempts to get voters to approve Oregon's first nontribal casino, a group of investors is going all in this year.

With ample money from a Canadian investment firm, the proponents are feverishly selling Oregonians on their plans to build a casino and entertainment complex just outside Portland. They've bombarded television screens and mailboxes with a glitzy advertising campaign that talks more about schools than it does about gambling.

A quarter of gambling revenue would be earmarked for government services, and the Canadians are betting that they can change the conversation into a debate about school funding instead of a referendum on gambling.

"Let's face it, our economy and our schools aren't in great shape," says a woman narrating a television commercial promoting a project

developers call The Grange. "Having another casino here won't impact my life, but better schools and more jobs will."

Opponents are led by the Grand Ronde tribe, which runs Spirit Mountain, the nearest casino to Portland.

The opponents promise vigorous opposition. They argue that the measures open Oregon to gambling for private profit, instead of for public funds. They've derisively dubbed the project "The Grunge."

The developers face a tough slog. The last time voters weighed in, two years ago, they overwhelmingly rejected the idea, although the push was far more muted than the current one.

Voters will be asked two questions related to the proposed casino this November. Measure 82 would change the state constitution to allow privately owned casinos subject to votes statewide and in the

local community. Measure 83 would authorize the Wood Village location.

The campaigns haven't had to report most of their expenditures so far, but records that are available give a peak at spending fit for a high-roller. Broadcast station records show the proponents have bought more than \$400,000 worth of airtime to promote the casino on Portland's ABC, NBC and CBS affiliates. That doesn't include money spent on cable television or broadcast stations in other markets. Opponents began advertising last week.

Developers see a lucrative, untapped market in Portland, where there's demand for gambling but the nearest casino is at least an hour's drive away. There are 66 weekly scheduled flights between Portland and Las Vegas, according to Port of Portland records. Statewide, video lottery terminals, which resemble slot machines in bars,

pump millions into the state lottery every year.

Advertisements say the casino would pump \$100 million into "schools, services and local commitments" based on the developers' contention that it will earn \$400 million per year. The estimate is conservative, said Stacey Dycus, a spokeswoman for the proponents, but the government will get less money if the revenue falls short of expectations.

Based on preliminary figures, gambling revenue at all nine tribal casinos was about \$470 million last year, said Bob Whelan, an economist at EcoNorthwest who analyzes the casinos' economic impact for the tribes. He estimates a privately owned casino in the Portland area would siphon about 36 percent of the revenue from Spirit Mountain, 60 miles southwest of Portland, with smaller impacts at the other casinos, which are farther from the metro area.

Cow Creek opposes Coquille casino

(AP) - A tribe that operates a casino in Douglas County says a proposed casino at Medford would invade its market and violate an understanding that tribes in Oregon would limit the number of gambling outlets.

The Coquille Indian Tribe, which has a casino in Coos County, said it wants to open another in Medford.

But the Cow Creek Umpqua Tribe says a large share of the customers at its Seven Feathers Casino Resort at Canyonville come from the Medford area, which is 70 miles south on Interstate 5.

If a Medford casino opens, the Cow Creek tribe might have to make its own push into the market, and there could be a statewide rush for new casinos, said the tribe's lawyer, Wayne Shammel.

"It's going to be like a casino arms race at that point," Shammel said.

Edward Metcalf, chairman of the Coquille tribe, said he believes more casinos bring more people to a region, potentially in-

creasing everyone's market share.

He said the Medford casino would have only machines, not card tables as at Seven Feathers or The Mill, the casino the Coquille tribe owns in North Bend along the Oregon coast.

"We're just talking about a small facility," he said. The Coquille tribe plans to convert part of a bowling alley to gambling. It also has leased a nearby golf course.

A 1989 federal law restored trial status and said the Coquille tribal service area includes Jackson County, as well as four others. The Cow Creek tribe said, though, that the territory doesn't extend into the Rogue Valley part of the county, where Medford lies.

Susan Matheson Ferris, spokeswoman for the Cow Creek tribe, said an executive order signed by Gov. John Kitzhaber during his first administration sets a framework with the understanding that each tribe in the state would be allowed one casino.

BPA tries to hold line on wildlife spending

(AP) - The Bonneville Power Administration is proposing to hold down spending on wildlife programs, even as it faces court requirements to show progress in fish restoration. The agency says it's a blip in programs where spending is rising rapidly, and the belt-tightening won't affect its commitments under court orders to preserve and restore populations of threatened fish.

The agency's customers are worried about the rising spending, and low natural gas

prices threaten to undercut the revenue BPA uses to reduce rates to the 140 public utilities that buy power directly from the agency. BPA executives said they have already added \$13 million to the wildlife budget for the coming year. But the agency is looking to trim spending by deferring land and equipment purchases, paring programs that aren't specifically related to the impact of federal dams on salmon and steelhead, and suspending non-critical operations and maintenance.



Yvonne Iverson/Spilyay

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Coalition of Warm Springs hosted the Walk For Our Future last week. The participants walked from the Early Childhood Education Center to the Community Center, where there were information booths and speakers, such as Aurelia Stacona (above).

Hunting season update from Natural Resources

The 2012 Ceded Land hunting tags are now available at the Department of Natural Resources office, 4223 Holliday Street, Warm Springs. Or call 541-553-2001.

Please come by the Natural Resources office to pick up your tags and a state lands Big Game Regulations Guide and to sign up for lottery hunts. You may pick up your tag up to two days before the start of the hunt.

You can also go online for more State Lands Big Game information at: dfw.state.or.us/resources/hunting/big_game Registration for Hunter Education classes and Field Days are available online at: or.outdoorcentral.us/or/license/classes Or: www.dfw.state.or.us/education/hunter/independent_study.asp

The following is a list of ceded land tags that are available.

For a list of hunts starting in November, December and January visit the Natural Resources office.

Hunts that started in August:

Antlerless elk - bag limit is one antlerless elk (hunt number, hunt name, hunt dates):
WS236T - Maury Unit

- Youth - Aug 1-Dec 31
WS241T - White River Hood Youth - Aug 1-Dec 31
- WS244T - Umatilla Youth - Aug 1-Dec 31
- WS245T - Fossil youth - Aug 1-Dec 31
- WS246T1 - Murderers Creek - Northside Youth - Aug 1-Dec 31
- WS248T - Heppner Youth - Aug 1-Dec 31
- WS245E - Fossil-SE Biggs Agriculture - August 1- March 31, 2013
- WS247E2 - E.Northside Pvt.#2 - August 1- March 31, 2013
- WS247E1 - E.Northside Pvt.#1 - August 1- Sept 30
- WS247D1 - W.Grant Pvt #1 - August 1- September 30
- WS234B - Tumalo - August 1-24, December 1-31
- WS234A - Little River - August 1-24, November 12-30
- WS234T - E.Cascade Youth - August 1-Dec31
- WS237A - N.Ochoco - August 1-November 30
- WS237B - Crooked River - August 1-November 30
- WS238A - Southwest Grizzly - August 1-November 30
- WS238B - N. Grizzly Private - August 1-November 30

Hunts that start in September:

Buck deer - check regulations for bag limit (hunt number, hunt name, hunt dates)
WSDT - Ceded Area

Buck - September 29-October 10

Hunts starting in October

- Antelope** - bag limit is one doe or fawn (hunt number, hunt name, hunt dates)
WS443A1 - Columbia Plateau No. 1 - October 13-21
- Antelope** - bag limit is one buck (hunt number, hunt name, hunt dates)
WS443A2 - Columbia Plateau No. 2 - October 13-21
- Antlerless elk** - bag limit is one antlerless elk (hunt number, hunt name, hunt dates)
WS247D2 - W Grant Pvt #2 - October 1- December 31
- WS237T2 - Ochoco Unit Youth Hunt #2 - October 13-19
- WS240A - Maupin-West Biggs - October 13-November 30
- Big horn sheep** - bag limit is one ram (Hunt number, Hunt name, Hunt Dates)
WS543B2 - E Deschutes Rvr No.2 - (lottery closes Sept. 28) - October 13-21

Buck deer - bag limit is one deer either sex (hunt number, hunt name, hunt dates)
WS100M - Hood Unit & Hood Rvr Valley Muzzleloader - October 13-23
WS139M1 - SE Metolius

#1 Muzzleloader - October 20-26

- Bull elk** - bag limit is one bull elk with visible antler (hunt number, hunt name, hunt dates)
WSCET - Cascade General Elk Season - October 13-19
- WSRME1 - Rocky Mtn. No. 1 Elk Season - October 24-28
- WS235M - Paulina-E. Fort Rock Muzzleloader - October 13-21
- Controlled elk** - bag limit is one elk either sex (hunt number, hunt name, hunt dates)
WS265M - E Grant

Muzzleloader - October 13-19

- WS238C1 - Grizzly Private No. 1 - October 24-28
- WS241A - The Dalles Watershed - October 24-28
- WS247A1 - Northside Pvt No.1 - October 24-28
- WS248A2 - Heppner No. 2 - October 24-28
- WS248B1 - Ritter No.1 - October 24-28

Controlled elk - bag limit is one spike only
WS249A2 - Ukiah Unit No 2 - October 24-28

Hunter surveys

Please participate in hunter surveys. Hunters are important sources of wildlife re-

lated information. The information gathered from hunter surveys is valuable for biologists, wildlife committee and tribal council to help make informed wildlife management decisions. By reporting, you are helping monitor wildlife populations and helping enhance hunting opportunities. Information from hunters who did not hunt or harvest an animal is as important as hunters who did take an animal. Hunter surveys are available at the Natural Resources office and will be given out with tags. Thank you for your participation!
The Warm Springs Wildlife Department

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